

Message Text

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42

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, VN, VS

SUBJ: SOVIETS TOAST "VICTORY" IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. SUMMARY: IN A MAJOR COMMENTARY ON THE "LIBERATION" OF SOUTH VIETNAM, PRAVDA HIGHLIGHTS THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "VICTORY" FOR "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES AND THE SETBACK TO "IMPERIALISM." PRAVDA ASSERTS THAT THE RESULT WOULD HAVE BEEN "IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE" WITHOUT SOCIALIST AID, AND SEES THE END OF THE WAR HELPING TO IMPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE. SOVIET POLITBURO MEMBER MAZUROV ALSO STRESSED THE SOVIET CONTRIBUTION AT A VIETNAMESE RECEPTION. THE

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U.S. WAS TREATED GENTLY.

2. PRAVDA (MAY 17) CARRIES A MAJOR COMMENTARY CALLED THE "HISTORICAL VICTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" BY REGULAR COMMENTATOR A. SERBIN. THE ARTICLE TRACES THE HISTORY OF THE INDOCHINA COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND OF THE CONFLICT, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO "IMPERIALISM'S" INTERVENTION IN THE 60S AND THIEU'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE VICTORY, SAYS SERBIN, HAS GREAT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: IMPERIALISM TRIED TO ENFORCE ITS WILL IN VIETNAM, BUT FAILED; IMPERIALISM CANNOT REGAIN THE HISTORICAL INITIATIVE TO DICTATE ITS WILL, HE ASSERTS. SERBIN PRAISES THE VIETNAMESE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THEIR "HEROIC STRUGGLE," AND LINKS THEIR EFFORTS DIRECTLY TO THOSE IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS. THIS CUSSESS, CLAIMS SERBIN, WOULD HAVE BEEN "IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE" WITHOUT THE AID PROVIDED BY THE SOCIALIST BROTHERHOOD, AND HE REITERATES THE IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET AID AND SUPPORT. THE END OF THE WAR, CONCLUDES SERBIN, CONTRIBUTES TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE AND REDUCES TENSIONS.

3. COMMENTS: THE ARTICLE MENTIONS THE U.S. BY NAME ONLY ONCE, BUT INDIRECTLY SEVERAL TIMES IN THE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE STRUGGLE. IN TONE IT LOOKS FORWARD, STRESSING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF "IMPERIALISM'S" SETBACK AND OF THE VICTORY OF THE "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES. THE CONCLUSION THAT THE END OF THE CONFLICT CONTRIBUTES TO DETENTE ECHOES BREZHNEV'S MAY 8 COMMENT AND THE EMPHASIS ON THE DECISIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET AID SEEMS TO GO SOMEWHAT BEYOND GROMYKO'S STATEMENT ON MAY 14.

4. THE SAME MAJOR POINTS IN BRIEFER FORM, WERE REPORTED IN EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY POLITBURO MEMBER MAZUROV AT A DRV/RSV RECEPTION ON MAY 15 TO MARK THE "COMPLETE LIBERATION" OF SOUTH VIETNAM (PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA MAY 16). MAZUROV CONGRATULATED THE VIETNAMESE ON THEIR VICTORY OVER THE "ANTI-PEOPLE REGIME OF THE SAIGON PUPPETS," LOOKED TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE AND LEANED HEAVILY ON THE CONSISTENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET AID IN THE FINAL VICTORY.

HOWEVER, MAZUROV DID NOT MENTION THE U.S. EVEN INDIRECTLY.
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MAZUROV AND CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER PONOMAREV LED THE LIST OF SOVIET GUESTS, WHILE DRV DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER CHAN KUY KHAI (PHONETIC) WAS ALSO REPORTED TO BE PRESENT. THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR THIRD RANKING DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS.
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